

HOUSE BILL 561

By Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 12, relative to foreign language credit hours.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 12, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-12\_\_.

(a) The state board of education shall develop a foreign language proficiency examination designed to assess students' foreign language skill and mastery so that such students may earn academic credit toward the fulfillment of foreign language credit hours.

(b) The state board of education shall craft the foreign language proficiency examination in such a manner that a student shall be deemed proficient in a foreign language upon demonstrating in writing that they have attained the intermediate range of proficiency as described by the american council on the teaching of foreign languages K-12 performance guidelines.

(b) Foreign language proficiency examinations shall be:

(1) Offered to students in grades K-12 who have had language arts experiences beyond the public school setting with a language other than english; and

(2) Offered in the following languages:

(A) Amharic;

(B) Arabic;

- (C) Bengali;
- (D) Chinese;
- (E) Farsi;
- (F) French;
- (G) German;
- (H) Hindi;
- (I) Korean;
- (J) Pilipino;
- (K) Portuguese;
- (L) Russian; and
- (M) Spanish.

(c) The state board of education shall determine the measure of academic credit hours to be awarded for successful performance on the foreign language proficiency examination.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.